

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image recording method comprising the steps of:  
attaching recording paper on an outer peripheral surface of a  
recording drum;  
forming an image receiving layer on a surface of the recording  
paper; and  
transferring the toner on a toner sheet onto the image receiving layer  
to record an image thereon in accordance with recording data.

2. The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a  
cushion layer is formed between the surface of the recording paper and the  
image receiving layer.

3. The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
receiving layer is formed by attaching an image receiving sheet having the  
image receiving layer on the surface of the recording paper and then  
transferring the image receiving layer thereon.

4. The image recording method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the  
image receiving sheet includes a cushion layer therebeneath, and the image  
receiving layer is transferred such that the cushion layer is placed between the  
surface of the recording paper and the receiving layer.

1 5. The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a  
2 protective layer is formed on an image recorded surface on the recording  
3 paper.

1 6. The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 toner sheet includes a light-heat conversion layer, and  
3 wherein the toner is thermally transferred by irradiating laser beam  
4 onto the light-heat conversion layer.

1 7. The image recording method as set forth in claim 6 further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 measuring<sup>a</sup> thickness of the recording paper by thickness detecting  
4 means; and

5 adjusting<sup>a</sup> focal point of the laser beam in accordance with the  
6 measured<sup>a</sup> value of the thickness detecting means.  
*thicknesses provided by*

1 8. The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein a non-  
2 contact type displacement meter is used as the thickness detecting means.

1 9. The image recording method as set forth in claim 6, wherein a laser  
2 displacement meter is used as the thickness detecting means.

1 10. The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 measured value of the thickness detecting means with respect to all the  
3 predetermined detection area is once stored in memory means, and the focal

4 point of the laser beam is subsequently adjusted in accordance with the stored  
5 value.

1 11. The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 thickness of the recording paper is measured from a position opposite to the  
3 rotating direction of the recording drum, and the focal position of the laser beam  
4 is adjusted in real time.

Sub C1  
a 12. An image recording apparatus for recording an image by use of the  
2 image recording <sup>method</sup> apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 11.

Add 95

Add C2

Add F.

Add G1